(d) The projections of production of Aluminium during the 8th Plan of NALCO and BALCO are 10,21,000 MT and 4,75,000 MT respectively. During the 8th Plan NALCO plans to export 3,40,000 tonnes of aluminium. BALCO has not made any projection of export of aluminium during the 8th Plan.

For 9th Plan no projections for production and export have been made by these Companies.

**Setting up tribunals on mining Disputes**

650. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases pertaining to mining disputes are increasing;

(b) whether Government had a proposal to set up tribunals at the State Headequarters to settle those mining disputes;

(c) if so, by which date these tribunals are likely to be set up; and

(d) the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No Sir,

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

**Mining Licences**

651. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to allow State Governments to issue mining licences for freely available minerals directly; and

(b) the details of simplification of licencing procedure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV (a) and (b) Prospecting Licence (PL Mining Lease for all minerals are granted by the State Governments. However, for the minerals specified in the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, the State Governments have to take prior approval of the Central Government before granting a prospecting licence/mining lease. Central Government through the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act, 1994, has reduced the number of minerals listed in the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Regulaton and Development) Act, 1957 from 38 to 23.

***Capacity of Steel Plants***

652. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the capacity of steel plants in the country ;

(b) what steps Government propose for the modernisation of the steel plants in the country to accelerate the production of steel; and

(c) what has been the effects of industrial policy and its liberalisation of steel plants in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) The crude steel capacity of steel plants in the country was 24.87 million tonnes during 1993-94. Apart from this, there are a large number of induction furnace units engaged in the production of steel.

(b) with a view to accelerate steel production with improved techno-economics & quality, Government has approved the modernisation projects at Durgapur, Rourkela

and Bokaro Steel Plants of SAIL. The modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant is likely to be completed by June, 1995 followed by completion of Rourkela modernisation in August, 1996 and Bokaro modernisation in July, 1997. In the private sector, the Tata Iron & Steel Company has also undertaken modernisation to increase its production and quality, and to produce value added products. To facilitate, *inter alia*, modernisation efforts of different units, the Iron & Steel industry has been included in the list of Industries eligible for Automatic Approvals for foreign technology agreement upto specified limits and for 51% foreign equity. Imports of capital goods have been easier. In addition, no prior permission is required for engaging the services of foreign experts.

(c) The private sector has responded positively to the liberalisation of the industrial policy, and a large number of Industrial Entrepreneur's Memoranda have been filed for the manufacture of steel. A capacity of about 4.6 million tonnes for the production of steel through large sized projects is already at various stages of implementation.

**News report on recruitment in Durgapur Steel Plant**

653. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Sunday Observer, New Delhi of July 3rd and 9th, 1994 (Business Section) under the caption "Multi-crore recruitment scandal surfaces at Durgapur Steel Plant";

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction thereto;

(c) the *modus operandi* of the scandal reported in the above news item; and

(d) the preventive measures which Government have taken or propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is a fact that the local police received a complaint from a person, who had alleged irregulatrities in the recruitment of Junior Operative Trainees at Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP). On receipt of the said complaint certain persons were arrested including employees of the DSP. The matter is now under investigation by the police authorities.

(d) The recruitment system in DSP has been evolved over a period of time with several built in checks to ensure that it is a fair process. However, after the recent incident, top management of DSP have constituted a committee to review the recruitment procedure to see how it can be further improved.

**Production of Sail**

654. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) what has been estimated production in the Steel Authority of India, during the calendar year of 1994;

(b) what is the value of exports as well as the amount of domestic sale made by the Steel Authority of India ; and

(c) what is the amount of foreign exchange earned by SAIL during this year and what has been the increase in this earning as compared to that of the last year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The production of saleable steel